

BOROUGH OF MORTON

Regular Council Meeting

Via Zoom

May 27, 2020

The regular council meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Council President Michelle Miller. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and roll was called. The following was roll call response: Michelle Miller-present, John Miller-present, Michele Roberts-present, Robert McGrath-present, Hiele Hodnett-present, Joseph Boylan-present, Douglass Eagar-present, and Mayor App -present.

Also present: Solicitor Ewald, Tax Collector Acquarola, Sgt. Rodstein, and Engineer Catania.

Council comments – none

Public comments-none

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms., Roberts made a Motion to approve the minutes for the month of April. Ms. Hodnett seconded the Motion. All voiced approval. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY BILLS

Mr. Boylan made a Motion to approve the payment of bills for the previous month. Ms. Roberts seconded the Motion. All voiced approval. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC FACILITES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. McGrath gave the building inspector report for April. There were 9 building permits issued.

Ms. Miller stated that she, Ms. Roberts and Mr. McGrath visited the woods Sunday, an informal committee meeting, in getting ready for the grant work.

2020 Road work

Mr. McGrath made a Motion to approve the 2020 Road program to go out for bid. Ms. Miller seconded the Motion. All voiced approval. Motion carried.

HVAC-Gym

Mr. Catania explained the reason for the recent change order. There was a discrepancy in the estimates, and it was found that the item was not in the bid contract document. The extra costs would be \$15,750. We can request additional funding through the county, however Mr. Catania stated he would work with the borough for the additional cost. We would not need to pay the contractor until we get word from the County Council.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

The Tax collector report for April as well as the Sewer and Rubbish collection report are on file in the borough office for council review.

Tax Collector Acquarola reported that she has had some issues with prior year collections, 15 borough issues and 17 school issues. People have paid, and she cannot find where it was accounted for, but has copies of canceled checks from property owners. She is working diligently to rectify this situation.

Ms. Hodnett questioned the traffic calming for Walnut Street. Council did respond that no work is scheduled to be done on Walnut Street, nothing is budgeted for any traffic calming on that street.

Mr. McGrath suggested that a committee meeting be held first, and invite the Police Chief.

Zoom

The next public zoom meetings will be June 10th and June 24th at 7:00 p.m.

Motion to approve Resolution 2020-06 – the Application to the PA DCED Watershed Restoration and Projection program. There is no cost to the borough. Ms. Miller made a Motion to approve, Ms. Roberts seconded. All council voiced approval. Motion carried.

Ms. Miller reported that Jamie Anderson from ESWC gave a rain barrel presentation and then afterward, gave out 50 rain barrels.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Police Report

Mr. Miller read the police report. There were 147 police incidents in the month of April. He did report that parking at Herbology is now under control.

Sgt Rodstein reported that two more-part timers have left. A former officer who was here several years ago has applied.

For the permanent position, there is a physical agility test at 8:00 a.m. tomorrow and then interviews would be held thereafter.

Fire Dept.

Mr. Miller reported that he did receive the fire reports for March and April. There were 15 incidents with 94 personnel. The Borough building recently had a gas leak outside of office but that has been repaired by PECO.

PUBLIC HEALTH, SANITATION, AND RECYCLING

Ms. Roberts reported that 2nd quarter Sewer bills will be sent tomorrow 5-28-20. The face amount will be July 10, 2020.

Ms. Roberts reported the April trash pickup and recycling. There were 9 pick ups and tonnage was 97.01 Recycling had 5 pick-ups and tonnage was 22.05

Ms. Roberts thanked the State Rep's office for the food drive that was held recently at Shorter AME church.

LAW & ORDINANCE

Mr. Eagar made a Motion to authorize the Towing ordinance (765) for advertisement. Ms. Miller seconded the Motion. All voiced approval. Motion carried.

Zoning Ordinance update

Solicitor Ewald explained that both the County and Morton Planning commissions are done with their reviews. County Planning had commented regarding the wording of "maximum" to "minimum". He then showed the County that it was an actual typographical error when the codification was completed. This addressed their concerns, the last section regarding grandfathering should be removed, then the ordinance is ready to authorize approval for June 24th. Mr. Eagar made a Motion to authorize advertisement of this ordinance. Ms. Miller seconded the Motion. All voiced approval. Motion carried.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Hodnett reminded all to be prepared to vote on Tuesday June 2nd.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Mayor App reported that he was withdrawing the dog station proposal. He thanked Mr. Catania for the generous donation toward Park and Recreation.

Next meeting is scheduled for June 25th at 7:00 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS – Mr. Poole reported that we did receive word that our CDBG grant application to update the Zoning and Planning documentation was approved.

Mayor App thanked the Civil Service Commission for their work on the police hiring process.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Jackie Guy – 635 Country lane – reported that the school year ends June 5th. There will be a caravan of busses going around to the senior's homes to hand out diplomas, and then at 9:00 p.m. there will be fireworks at ETR school .

Mario Cimino-46 S Morton – mentioned that the local government should be responsible for the building for June 2nd and should post signs, and have a policy about wearing masks safety requirements for Election Day. Mr. Poole stated that we have adopted the State Department of Health's guidelines. Mr. Cimino also suggested council consider reconstituting the local board of election. Ms. Miller explained that the County is providing masks, but there is not a lot of information on what to do, the county is having training tomorrow for the workers.

Solicitor Ewald called an Executive session to discuss a litigation matter.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Roberts made a Motion to adjourn at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Martha Preston, Secretary